

The Governor's Family Violence Council

2015 Legislative Agenda DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LEGISLATION

BILLS SUPPORTED BY THE FVC THAT PASSED

SB 269 – Domestic Violence – Additional Relief

Expands the relief that may be awarded in a final protective order to include any other relief that a judge determines is necessary to protect a person eligible for relief from abuse.

SB 315 – Domestic Violence – 2 Year Protective Order

Specifies that a court may issue a protective order for a period not to exceed 2 years by consent of the respondent under specified circumstances; and authorizing a judge, under specified circumstances, to extend the term of a protective order for a specified period of time if the respondent named in the protective order consents to the extension.

SB 477 – Domestic Violence – Persons Eligible for Relief

Alters, for specified purposes relating to domestic violence, the definition of “person eligible for relief” to include an individual who has had a sexual relationship with the respondent within 1 year before filing the petition; establishing a specified exception to a provision that authorizes the court to include in a final protective order a requirement that specified individuals participate in specified counseling or a domestic violence program.

HB 263 – Domestic Violence – Permanent Protective Orders – Conspiracy or Solicitation to Commit Murder

Expands the circumstances under which a court is required to issue a permanent final protective order to include the conviction of an individual for conspiracy or solicitation to commit murder under specified circumstances.

HB 390 – Protective Order and Peace Order Petitions – Maryland Residents

Authorizes the filing of a protective order petition if the abuse is alleged to have occurred in the State or if the person eligible for relief is a resident of the State; and authorizes the filing of a peace order petition if a specified act is alleged to have occurred in the State or if the petitioner is a resident of the State; declaring that it is the intent of the General Assembly that an order for protection issued by a court of this State shall be accorded full faith and credit by a court of another state; etc.

BILLS SUPPORTED BY THE FVC THAT DID NOT PASS

HB 227 – Family Law – Domestic Violence – Definition of Abuse

This bill would have altered the definition of “abuse” in the protective order to include harassment, trespass, and malicious destruction of property if the person eligible for relief had not resided with the respondent for at least 7 days before the filing of the petition.

HB 807/SB 277 - Family Law – Protective Orders – Additional Relief

This bill would have authorized a judge in a final protective order to order the respondent to remain a specified distance away from the residence, place of employment, school, or temporary residence of a person eligible for relief.

HB 857/SB 530 – Criminal Procedure – Firearms - Transfer

This bill would require the court to order a person who is convicted of a crime of violence that is a misdemeanor “domestically related crime” to transfer all firearms owned by the person or in the person’s possession. The transfer of firearms must be made within 24 hours of the conviction to a state or local law enforcement official or to a federally licensed firearms dealer with notification to the court.